MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: I cannot say.

MR. M. K.NILAKANTAN: Is the Tahsildar submitting a regular report of the minutes of the meeting?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Yes, Sir. He is submitting the minutes of the proceedings to the Peishkar regularly.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: Is there any general rule as regards the interval between two meetings?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: No, Sir.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: Who convenes the meetings?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: The Tahsildar who is the convener of the committee.

MR. K. M. PAUL (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Devicolam*): May I know whether the Taluk Committee functions now?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Yes, Sir.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: If the Tahsildar is not very particular of the advice of the Committee he need not convene the meeting. Is that the position?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: No, Sir. Generally Tahsildars convene these meetings at fairly regular intervals.

RAO SAHIB A. K. BHASKAR: May I know whether Assembly members are also members of the Taluk Committees also?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Possibly.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: What is meant by fairly regular intervals? What is the idea?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Whenever the Tahsildar thinks, he should convene a meeting to discuss urgent matters, he calls a meeting. For example, there were two meetings of the Mavelikara Taluk Committee within a fortnight. There was one meeting in Meenam and another in Medam, because the Tahsildar thought it necessary to call the committee.

MR. M. K. NILAKANTAN: May I know whether all the interests in a taluk are represented in a Taluk Committee?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: It is expected to be so Sir.

Paddy or rice purchased.

125. *MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil* cum *Nedumangad*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether any quantity of paddy or rice was purchased from Madras Presidency in the year 1120;

(*b*) if so, the district from which purchase was made; and

(*c*) the quantity from each district with the average price paid there?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) From the Tanjore District.

(*c*) 948,065 bags of rice of 2 maunds each. The average price paid was Rs. 11-8-0 per maund.

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MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: May I know what is the rate at which rice is sold at Trivandrum?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Current price is Rs. 26-8-0 for a bag 160 lbs. net.

Purchase of food grains.

126. *MR. P. S. MOHAMED: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have proposed to do away with the present system of storing food grains under the direct custody of the department;

(*b*) the nature of the proposals;

(*c*) as a result of the proposal whether they have ordered for the release of the store-houses from commandeering; and

(*d*) why they have ordered for re-commandeering the store-houses which were released?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: (*a*) No.

(*b*) and (*c*) Do not arise in view of the answer to (*a*).

(*d*) No godown which was released was ordered to be re-commandeered.

Purchase of food grains.

127. *MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN: Will the Government be pleased to state the total amount invested in purchasing the food grains?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: From 1118 to end of Medom 1121, a sum of Rs. 2,654·06 lakhs has been invested on purchasing food grains.

MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN: May I know from the honourable member what amount was realised by the sale of foodgrains during this period?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: It is roughly about 27 crores of rupees. The accounts have not been finalised however.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: May I know whether the accounts were begun to be prepared, with regard to food purchase, only just now?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: No, Sir. Some nine months back we appointed a special officer with the requisite staff for auditing the accounts in the Food Department.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: So may I take that there was no account kept before nine months?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: No. Accounts are being kept from the beginning. A special officer with a large staff has been appointed for auditing the accounts. As I have already explained we have a joint account with our sister State of Cochin. We are getting foodstuffs from various places like the United Provinces, the Central Provinces etc. Also foodgrains are allotted for Travancore and Cochin together. The Special Officer with his staff of auditors and accountants is preparing the balance-sheet and in another three months his report is expected to be ready.

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